

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a nozzle inlet;
 - a suction generator carried on said housing; and
 - a dirt cup carried on said housing, said dirt cup including a bottom wall, a sidewall, a dirt collection chamber, an air inlet, an air inlet conduit extending from said air inlet into said dirt collection chamber, an air outlet opposite said bottom wall, a filter assembly received over said air outlet, and an air deflector having a substantially hemihorn torus shape, said air deflector including a support engaging said air inlet conduit wherein said support includes an axial inlet opening and at least one radially directed outlet opening for directing air outwardly adjacent a concave surface of said air deflector, and said air deflector further including an annular screen section extending concentrically around said air deflector.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of ~~claim 10~~claim 1, wherein said filter assembly includes a filter holder and a filter element held in said filter holder.

12. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 11, wherein said filter element includes a frame holding a pleated filter material.

13. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein said dirt collection chamber is substantially cylindrical in shape.

14. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 13, wherein said air inlet conduit is concentrically received within said sidewall in said dirt collection chamber.

15. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 14, wherein said filter holder is annular and engages an exposed edge of said sidewall.

16. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 15, wherein said filter holder includes a body and a lip defining a cavity holding said filter element.

17. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 16, wherein said filter holder includes a

tongue and said sidewall includes a groove, said tongue and groove mating when said filter holder is mounted on said dirt cup.

18. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said dirt collection chamber is annular in shape.

19. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 18, wherein said housing includes a nozzle section including said nozzle inlet and a canister section.

20. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said nozzle section and said canister section are pivotally connected together.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)